

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 05372 230748Z
ACTION SY-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 INR-05 PA-01 MCT-01
SCS-01 CA-01 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-01 IO-06
NSCE-00 HA-02 INRE-00 SSO-00 SYE-00 /041 W
-----126791 230756Z /14

O R 230709Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 240
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5372

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, CVIS
SUBJECT: ARREST OF ONE AMERICAN AND TWO AUSTRALIANS FOR POSS-
SESSION OF EXPLOSIVES

REF: (A) BANGKOK 4930 (B) BANGKOK 5053

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY TOLD US THAT THREE SENIOR
AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS HAVE ARRIVED IN BANGKOK TODAY FOR
MEETINGS WITH THAI POLICE AND PROSECUTION OFFICIALS.
GROUP INCLUDES TWO COMMONWEALTH POLICE OFFICERS AND
ONE LAWYER FROM THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, WHO IS
CHARGED WITH INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION FOR COUNTER
TERRORISM.

2. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY HAVE CONVEYED
TO MFA, INTERIM GOA RESPONSE TO DEPUTY PRIMIN WONG'S
APPROACH RE EXTRADITION OF JONES AND SPARK TO AUSTRALIA.
AUSTRALIANS HAVE CRYPTICALLY INFORMED MFA THAT, "FOLLOWING
MINISTERIAL CONSULTATION IN CANBERRA," GOA HOPES THAT NO
OPTION WILL BE CLOSED OFF BY RTG SINCE GOA WOULD LIKE TO RE-
VIEW SITUATION AFTER POLICE INVESTIGATION COMPLETED. AUS-
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TRALIAN EMBASSY INDICATES THAT THEY HAVE NOT RPT NOT SO FAR
TOLD MFA THAT AT PRESENT THERE APPEARS TO BE NO
EVIDENCE TO JUSTIFY DETENTION IN AUSTRALIA OF THE
TWO IF THEY IN FACT WERE DEPORTED BY THAI.

3. IN RESPONSE TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY INQUIRY, WE TOLD THEM
THAT WE ARE STILL AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS BUT WOULD LET

THEM KNOW WHEN WE HAD RECEIVED OUR GUIDANCE.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF TIME WHICH HAS ELAPSED SINCE
RTG HIGH LEVEL APPROACHES TO AMBASSADOR ON FEBRUARY 17,
WOULD APPRECIATE AT LEAST INTERIM GUIDANCE FROM
DEPARTMENT.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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